AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 20 and ending on page 24, line 8 as follows:

Screening of an adult rat lung cDNA library (Clonetech Laboratories, Palo Alto, CA) with rabbit polyclonal anti-NSGP (Power *et al*. Exp Lung Res 1999, 25:379-391) produced a 1435-bp cDNA. Sequencing of this clone demonstrated that it was identical to the published sequence of a rat lung acidic Ca^{2+} -independent PLA_2 (Kim *et al*. Am J Physiol 1998, 274:L750-L761) that was later shown to possess both NSGP and phospholipase activity (Chen *et al*. J Biol Chem 2000, 275:28421-28427). Using this cDNA as a template, polymerase chain reaction was performed using primers 5′-**GGCAATTC**ATGCCCGGA-GGGCTGCTTCTC-3′ (SEQ ID NO: 4) and 5′-**CCGCTCGAGCGG**GTTCCCGCAGACTTAAGGCTG-3′ (SEQ ID NO: 5) which included restriction sites for EcoR*1* and *Xho*1 (in bold) on the upstream and downstream primers, respectively. The amplicon generated by these primers spans the entire coding sequence of NGSP. After amplification, the products were treated with *Eco*R1 and *Xho*1 to produce cohesive ends, purified, and cloned in frame into the glutathione S-transferase expression vector pGEX-6P (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Piscataway, NJ, USA); the expression construct

was sequenced to ensure fidelity of polymerase chain reaction amplification. Transformation of bacteria, purification of the fusion protein, and cleavage of the glutathione S-transferase tail from the recombinant NGSP were all performed according to the manufacturer's instructions. The purified protein was concentrated by lyophilization and used for antibody production.

IN THE SEQUENCE LISTING

Please insert the Sequence Listing enclosed herewith immediately after the abstract.